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**Summary:** Throughout this section of the book, Bakha learned a very important lesson, as well as just how differently he is viewed from the rest of India. Of course Bakha knew that he was a part of the lower class, however he did not know that he was the lowest of the lowest class. He was an “untouchable.” After Bakha was finished his chores one day, he sat down and rested on a woman’s doorstep. He awoke by the screaming of her voice, telling him that he “May perish and die!” because an “untouchable” touched her house. The lady then had to sprinkle holy water on her house in order to decontaminate it. The Woman was clearly not happy with Bakha, so she made him sweep the drain. However, because Bakha did work for the woman, she awarded him with a slice of bread that she threw at him from the second story window. The slice of bread landed on the ground, and Bakha did not say thank you for his lovely dirt covered bread, which also made the lady furious. Later that day, when Bakha’s father asked him why he didn’t have any food, he was forced to tell him the truth. Bakha’s father told him that he will be working for town’s people for a long time, so he needs to understand that he must work and accept the reward. He learned that he should not talk back to people and must always use his manners. After reminding Bakha of his duties as a sweeper, Lahka told Bakha a story about when Bakha was young and a near death experience. Bakha was deathly ill and because his father was untouchable, he was not able to talk to or get a doctor to come and help Bakha from dying. Fortunately, a nice doctor helped after Lakha begged and pleaded to help his son survive. Bakha loved the story and was surprised that all people act poorly to the lower class.

**Analysis:** Personally, I think its crazy how people treat the lower classes. I understand if some people do not like others, however there is no reason to purposefully make their lives terrible and treat them as if they are dirt. However, I can relate this a little bit to the social system in high school. The most popular students treat other “lower class” students as if they do not have feelings. The popular students want to feel in control by making the lives of other students tough and miserable. I do not believe that this system is correct. Just because some people do not live the same way as others and may not have enough money to buy designer clothes and handbags does not mean they are any less of a person than someone who can afford those accessories. Although, I do not agree with retaliating if you are treated badly, I completely understand the motivation behind someone who does. If I was Bakha, I probably would not have said thank you for the bread either. The fact that the woman threw the bread at him and it landed on the ground is a perfectly good reason not to say thank you. People should not be rude like that, however if you are treated rudely first, it almost feels as if you must be rude back at the person. It is a terrible cycle, which is why everyone should be treated equally, and the sweepers should be friends, not “untouchables.”

**Application:** Most people are very concerned about their own social appearance and status towards others. People do not want to be seen if they are not perfectly dressed, for fear that someone may ridicule or make fun of them. I believe that this aspect of human nature relates back to Untouchable because I believe that the upper class people treat the lower class so poorly because they do not want to appear as friends with someone of such low status. It would be embarrassing to be seen with someone grungy and dirty when you are the most pristine individual in India. Also, with the aspect of human behavior, people in upper and lower castes behave and act completely differently from each other. While the role for a sweeper is to clean drains and lanes, the middle class’s role is to live in the town and use the drains that the sweepers are forced to clean. The highest class’s role is to live the luxurious life, and use the middle class citizens as their maids and servants. The human roles in this novel are completed in a vicious cycle. Along with the roles, each class’s ideals also differ completely from each other. Although each level of society is striving to look good, be healthy, have fun, and find love, they are all searching for these things on different levels. A sweepers idea of looking good is finding clothing that does not have holes or dirt on it, while an upper class citizen’s idea is buying a new gown to wear to the ball. Although everyone may share the same ideals, the definition of each ideal differs from caste to caste.